GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:682
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003
DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
BIR SING MAHATO;HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for distribution of essential commodities in the States;

(b) whether any discrepancy has been found in this regard in the recent past; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a)to(c): The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments under which the responsibility for distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries through a vast network of Fair Price Shops all over India, lies with the State Governments. The allocation of foodgrains to all States/ UTs is being made by the Central Government as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-94), updated on the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000, without exception. Some of the states have issued more number of ration cards thanthe estimated number of families. However the allocation of foodgrains to all the States/UTs is made on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for each States/UT or the number of ration cards actually issued by them whichever is less. This criteria forallocation cannot be changed for any States/UT in isolation.